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ON PAGE 6A

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Shultz says U.S. has thwarted dozens of plots by terrorists

NEW YORK (Reuter) — The United States has foiled dozens of terrorist plots in the past year through stepped-up intelligence work, Secretary of State George P. Shultz said in an interview published yesterday.

Time magazine quoted Mr. Shultz as saying that the number of terrorist incidents had been rising but that the "organized, civilized, international community is becoming . . . more and more determined to stop it and isolate it."

Asked about the U.S. capture of suspected Palestinian hijackers of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*, he said: "It is true that this is an important event in the fight against terrorism, but there has been a tremendous amount accomplished in the last year that is not as visible as this. . . ."

"The fact is that through the de-

velopment of better intelligence and of very good intelligence exchange — I might say outstanding with the Italians, for example — we have uncovered, prevented or aborted some 90 terrorist incidents in the last year."

On Thursday, as the United States was secretly laying plans to intercept the Egyptian aircraft carrying the four suspected hijackers, President Reagan told a group of high school students in Illinois that in the past he had personally approved a number of anti-terrorist operations. The president did not elaborate.

Asked about retaliation against terrorists, Mr. Shultz was quoted as saying: "I don't think that we should hesitate to bring people to justice for criminal acts for fear that some other criminals may not like it and try to do something about it."